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## Pajaro Valley adult school leaders, faculty to get pink slips

**By DONNA JONES -- Santa Cruz Sentinel**

Posted: 03/10/2010 10:22:24 PM PST

Updated: 03/10/2010 10:23:00 PM PST

WATSONVILLE - About 60 teachers and administrators at Watsonville Aptos Adult Education are being given a heads up that they could be out of job next year.

The move calls into question the future of an adult school that teaches English and job skills to thousands of students each year.

Pajaro Valley Superintendent Dorma Baker said the layoff notices are designed to give the district flexibility in the face of unknown actions that could be taken in Sacramento.

"No additional reductions (to adult education) are planned at this time," Baker said. But "the state could make adult school reductions that have nothing to do with you."

Baker's comment came after some district trustees questioned the move. The board cut \$500,000 from adult school last year and another \$650,000 in December. But in February, when cutting \$5 million from the district's budget, spared adult education further reductions.

"I felt we had made the decision we had cut as much as we wanted to," said Trustee Sandra Nichols.

Baker said the concern is that when new state financial numbers come out in May, the fiscal picture could be worse and result in heftier reductions to public education funding. She said if so, the district could face yet another round of cuts and it may not be possible to avoid further reductions to adult education. Teachers have to be noticed by March 15, and administrators had to be given warning even to change titles or pay, she said.

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board we need to be careful not to limit what we can do down the line," said Trustee Kim Turley, who was part of a 4-3 majority approving possible pink slips to Nancy Bilicich and Cynthia Stark, director and assistant director of the adult school, respectively.

Bilicich said she understands the district's dilemma and the need for flexibility.

"I'm sorry the adult ed program is still in jeopardy," Bilicich said.

Trustees also approved handing potential pink slips to the equivalent of 22 full-time classified employees, including the directors of construction and maintenance and operations, and a special education teacher, boosting the total of possible job losses to more than 240 next year.

In February, the board approved cutting 130 teachers and 30 classified workers.

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